

ORDINARY MEETING**29 JULY 2026****5.1****CEO MONTHLY REPORT**

EO | 93/1/2 | #7909830

RECOMMENDATION:**That Council notes:**

- 1. The status of Council Resolutions;**
- 2. The CEO Monthly Update; and**
- 3. The Monthly Activity Review – June 2026.**

Outstanding Council Resolutions

Since the previous reporting period 22 resolutions have been completed, leaving 10 open resolutions. See below table:

Date of Meeting	Type of Meeting	Report Title	Directorate
23/07/2025	Ordinary	Prejudicial Matter - Infrastructure Agreement Between Cairns Regional Council and PPNQ Developments Pty Ltd for the discretionary waiver of levied charges for Catalytic Development Under the development and investment incentive support policy for tourist attraction and tourist park at 4L AND 900L Captain Cook Highway, Kewarra Beach – Division 9 <i>Advice provided to Developer confirming that the Change Application needs to be finalised before IA can be signed.</i>	PGS
26/11/2025	Ordinary	Contract 3011 – Waste and Recycling Kerbside Collection Services <i>Negotiations with the selected contractor ongoing.</i>	CIA
24/06/2026	Ordinary	The Historical Society Cairns North Queensland Inc. 2026-27 Transitional Resource and Performance Agreement <i>Agreement has been reviewed by Director L&C and sent to the Historical Society for signing.</i>	L&C
24/06/2026	Ordinary	Cairns Art Gallery Precinct Ltd Transitional Resource and Performance Agreement <i>Agreement has been reviewed by Director L&C and CEO and sent to the Gallery for signing.</i>	L&C
24/06/2026	Ordinary	Liquor Licensing, Gaming Machine Licensing and Adult Entertainment Permits – General Policy <i>In progress.</i>	PGS
15/07/2026	Ordinary	Rfq-0443 – Kerbside 240 Litre Bin Lid Replacement (Part of Grow Fogo Fund, Stream 3: Bin Harmonisation - Exchange Green Lids for Red Lids) <i>In progress.</i>	CIA

15/07/2026	Ordinary	Street Naming Policy <i>In progress.</i>	PGS
15/07/2026	Ordinary	Reimbursement of Legal Assistance Fees <i>In progress.</i>	EXEC
15/07/2026	Ordinary	Council Motions to Be Considered at the 2026 LGAQ Annual Conference in Cairns 19-21 October 2026 <i>Lodgement of motions will be done by 27 July 2026.</i>	EDA
15/07/2026	Ordinary	Proposed Changes to The Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements <i>Lodgement will be completed on 19 August 2026.</i>	EDA

CEO Monthly Update

Monthly Activity Review – June 2026

End of Financial Year

Council's operating position at the end of June was a surplus of \$36M, compared to a budget of \$18M. Actual capital works expenditure for the year is \$291.5M, compared to a budget of \$421.8M. A significant proportion of the unspent capital expenditure for the year relates to timing variance in the budget allocation for Cairns Water Security Strategy. The project is on track and will reach practical completion in 2027.

This outcome reflects strong performance throughout the 2025/26 financial year and provides solid foundations for the commencement of 2026/27. Further detail is provided in the separate Preliminary Financial Statements report and performance throughout the past financial year will be addressed through the Annual Report.

IRONMAN

From 11–14 June 2026, Cairns came alive as IRONMAN Cairns 2026 brought together more than 12,500 athletes, supporters and spectators for an action-packed weekend of world class racing and community celebration.

The event featured five popular races - Quicksilver Reef Swim, FNQ Legacy Charity Fun Run, IRONKIDS, IRONMAN Cairns and IRONMAN 70.3 Cairns. With registrations exceeding 2025 numbers across every event. Overall attendance is expected to be higher than last year, with final figures still being confirmed.

Welcoming competitors and visitors from across Australia and around the globe, IRONMAN Cairns once again showcased the region's vibrant atmosphere, stunning natural environment and exceptional event delivery.

Cairns Regional Council thanks the athletes, supporters, volunteers, sponsors and partners who contributed to another incredible IRONMAN Cairns experience and looks forward to welcoming everyone back in 2027

Empowering Local Government Bill

The *Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2026* was passed by the Queensland Parliament on 5 March 2026 and received Royal Assent on 11 March 2026.

Most of the Act's provisions commenced on Assent on 11 March 2026. However, the following provisions commenced by proclamation on 1 July 2026:

- conflicts of interest
- register of interests

The updated Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland also came into effect on 1 July 2026, with the main change being the removal of conduct breaches from the councillor conduct framework.

Councillors recently attended training sessions with the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers and the Office of the Independent Assessor.

Crystal Cascades Vandalism

Over the past 4 weeks, 160m of copper cable have been stolen from the Crystal Cascades water intake area. This cable powers the water intake, supplying water to the freshwater treatment plant. This facility is being operated utilising backup generator power pending permanent repair.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Monthly Activity Review – June 2026
DM#[7909832](#)



Ken Gouldthorp
Chief Executive Officer

Monthly Activity Review

93/1/2 | #7909830 / #7909832

June 2026

The data contained within this review relates to the following:

- Community and Civic Events
- Major Events
- L&C Community & Cultural Events
- L&C Community Activity
- Vandalism costs
- Cairns Infrastructure and Assets Customer Requests
- Planning Growth and Sustainability Updates
- Major Projects and Initiatives
- Economic Development and Advocacy Highlights
- Economic Snapshot

Ken Gouldthorp
Chief Executive Officer

Community and Civic events

QLD Day Party – Cairns Edition

Date: 6 June 2026

Venue: Eastern Events Lawn

Attendance: Approximately 2,000 Pax

Time: 5:00pm – 9:30pm

Purpose: QLD Day Party – Cairns Edition celebrated Queensland's separation from New South Wales on 6 June 1859, bringing the community together for a free celebration of Queensland's culture, community spirit and sporting pride.

Featuring live NRL screenings, entertainment and food vendors, the event supported local vibrancy and aligned with the objectives of the statewide QLD Day program.

This event was supported by the Queensland Government.



**2,000
people**



June Citizenship Ceremony

Date: 18 June 2026

Venue: Cairns Performing Arts Centre

Attendance: 540 Pax

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Purpose: Cairns Regional Council citizenship ceremonies formally welcome new Australian citizens into the local community. The ceremonies celebrate the commitment individuals have made to Australia and recognise the cultural diversity that strengthens Cairns, while marking an important milestone as new citizens are welcomed as active members of the community. Delivered on behalf of the Department of Home Affairs.



**540
people**



Major Events – June

IRONMAN Cairns 2026

Date: 11th – 14th June

IRONMAN Cairns is a premier triathlon event in Tropical North Queensland, featuring a 3.8 km ocean swim at Palm Cove, a 180 km bike ride along the scenic Captain Cook Highway, and a 42.2 km run through Cairns' vibrant Esplanade, all set against the backdrop of the Reef and Rainforest

Total forecast Attendance: 12,536*

Total registrations: 4,735

Program and registrations:

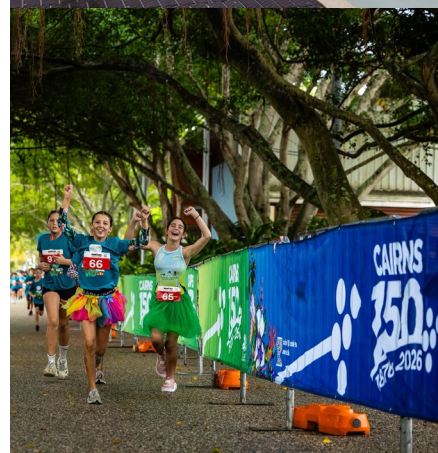
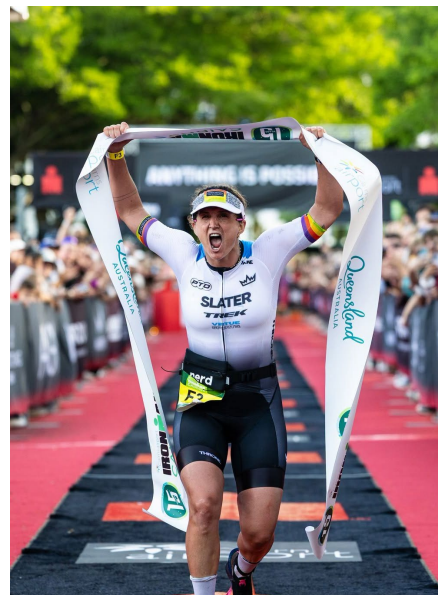
- Quicksilver Reef Swim - 342
- FNQ Legacy Charity Fun Run - 450
 - IRONKIDS - 605
- IRONMAN Cairns - 1,287
- IRONMAN 70.3 - 2,051

Purpose: Since its inception in 2011, IRONMAN Cairns has evolved into a flagship international endurance event that showcases Tropical North Queensland to a global audience.

The 2026 event attracted thousands of athletes and supporters, with registrations increasing across all categories since 2025. This popularity reinforces the event's role in driving visitation, economic impact and national media exposure. Cairns Regional Council remains a proud partner alongside TEQ, with funding secured through to 2028.



12,536*
attendance



* Estimated attendance based on 2025 event– pending final tourism reports

L&C Cultural & Community Events

April, May & June 2026

Community Partnerships

Month	Type	Number	Attendance
June 2026	Multicultural Community	1 event 3 events	2,000 pax 7,500 pax
Comments: June is tracking as anticipated. Several major events take place during this period, resulting in reduced availability for community events, which is typical. Highlights: • RSL Cairns Cenotaph 100 Years Celebration – a special C150 event • Harmony Cup 2026 – a new event with strong attendance • Gordonvale Sugar Solstice – lower than expected attendance due to weather, though still a good turnout • Freshwater Festival			
May 2026	Multicultural Community Sport	1 event 3 events 2 events	10,000 pax 4,500 pax 5,000 pax
Comments: May is traditionally a busier month as the weather cools. Highlights: • Redlynch Community Twilight Markets • FNQRL Foley Shield – a special C150 reunion event with strong participation from returning players • CARMA Multicultural Festival – moved earlier in the year to launch multicultural events, proving successful and likely to continue • The Great Northern Bullride • Rotary Beach Vibe – good weather contributed to a strong turnout • NQ Rugby Union Championships			
April 2026	Multicultural Community	1 event 1 event	4,000 pax 4,000 pax
Comments: April is typically a quieter month for events. Highlights: • Songkran Festival 2026 • Cairns Churches Celebrate 150 Years – a special C150 event			

L&C Cultural & Community Events

April, May & June 2026

Community Market Data

Palm Cove Markets *(Community Partnerships)*

June Market Day:

Total attendance – 4,600 pax | Stallholders – 130 stalls booked (2 cancellations)

Comments: Once again - good weather, very happy with attendance due to weather.

May Market Day:

Total attendance – 4,400 pax | Stallholders – 130 stalls booked (3 cancellations)

Comments: good weather, better than anticipated attendance due to weather.

No Market Day in April

Gordonvale Markets *(Community Partnerships)*

June Market Day:

Total attendance – 4,800 pax | Stallholders – 154 stalls booked

Comments: Really good weather and better than anticipated attendance.

May Market Day:

Total attendance – 4,000 pax | Stallholders – 150 stalls booked

Comments: good weather, good attendance.

April Market Day:

Total attendance – 3,000 pax | Stallholders – 110 stalls booked

Comments: good weather, good attendance.

Tank Markets *(Creative Life)*

June Market Day:

Total attendance – 4,000pax | Stallholders – 129 stalls booked

Comments: Wet start but the sun came through and it was a wonderful day.

May Market Day:

Total attendance – 4,000 pax | Stallholders – 140 stalls booked

Comments:

April Market Day:

Total attendance – 4,000 pax | Stallholders – 126 stalls booked

Comments: Amazing day! Great weather and great atmosphere.

L&C Cultural & Community Events

April, May & June 2026

Creative Venues

Events may include Launches, Exhibitions, Workshops, Classes, Performances, NFP Meetings or Rehearsals, Private Functions, Art Residencies, and Community Events.

Month	Event information
June 2026	71 Events / 49,454 Attendees
Highlights: June was another strong month for CPAC, with three sold-out performances including Morning Melodies, which celebrated its 150th performance with the mayor presenting commemorative flowers. We also proudly hosted the Cairns Junior Eisteddfod, delivering 12 days of performances across three daily sessions, more than 180 hours of venue operations, and welcoming over 5,000 young performers who showcased the exceptional talent and dedication of our region's youth.	
May 2026	90 Events / 35,248 Attendees
Highlights: Another highly successful Children's Festival across Tanks and CPAC. Comments: Children's Festival. Number of events (-15%) and number of attendees (-26%) down from previous year. May 2025: 105 Events / 47,976 Attendees.	
April 2025	71 Events / 25,338 Attendees
Highlights: Another busy month at CPAC with 30 shows/events including 9 sellouts. Tanks Markets recommenced this month. Comments: 22% increase in attendance across all events compared to previous year despite no longer counting Mulgrave & Court House Galleries. April 2025: 68 Events / 20,647 Attendees.	

L&C Community Activity

April, May & June 2026

Active Living Classes *(Community Life)*

Month	Classes	Attendance	Weather Cancellations
June 2026	79	1,857	8 classes
May 2026	79	2,099	4 classes
April 2025	77	1,533	11 classes

Community Spaces bookings

Total figures for April to June 2026 period

Location	Stats
City Venues & Parks	There were 623* total bookings for the period including 351 park/foreshore bookings;146 sporting field bookings and 126 Commercial Activities (fitness classes/workshops). *This excludes Esplanade and Barlow Park. <i>*This excludes Esplanade and Barlow Park.</i>
Esplanade Lagoon	319,030 people enjoyed the Lagoon
Barlow Park	30,144 people attended Barlow Park for various events in this period. This includes Casual Users; St Augustines; Corporate Room use; Rugby League games/training; Cairns Athletics Club Meets; Athletics Carnivals; Pride/CDRL and other general events.
Community Halls	There were 458 bookings across the community halls with 7,262 users attributed during this period.
Go Clubs	There were 0 Workshops held within this period.

Council Assets – Vandalism Costs

2025/26 VANDALISM & GRAFFITI COSTS	JUNE	JUNE YTD
Business Area	(\$'000)	(\$'000)
Facilities Maintenance	11	121
Community Spaces	32	429
Works	26	193
TOTAL	69	744

Strong Assessment Performance and Customer Service Outcomes

The Development Engineering team delivered positive results and strong customer responsiveness this June reporting period. The standout achievement is a 100% on-time determination rate across all completed material change of use (MCU) applications (civil works, cross overs, driveways, electrical and lighting and vegetation clearing), with zero refusals and an efficient average turnaround time of 44 days. Alongside formal technical assessments, the team maintained a high level of community and industry engagement by resolving 69 customer inquiries and actively engaging with the consulting engineering community.

Number of Op-Works applications received	30
Number of applications determined	11
Approvals	11
Refusal	0
Average assessment duration (days)	44
Percentage within statutory timeframes	100
Survey Plan Applications	5
Number of lots created	4
Pre-lodgement Enquiries	2
CRM Enquiries - Engineering & Trees	69

In a strong display of proactive industry collaboration, the Development Engineering team extends its gratitude to Rob Carman and Nathan Lee Long of Jacobs Engineering Group for hosting a half-day technical field tour. The session focused on evaluating the existing, on-the-ground performance of earthwork batters and road verges across seven established regional subdivisions:

- Park Ridge
- Freshwater Pockets
- Springbrook
- Redlynch Valley
- Cherrybrook
- Silkwood Ridge
- Riverstone

This practical industry exchange significantly extends the Development Engineering team's technical breadth and deepens their understanding of geotechnical standards, providing invaluable context when assessing complex and high-risk earthwork proposals in future development applications.

Development Approval for CQU Inner-City Campus

On 24 June 2026, Cairns Regional Council approved a Development Permit for an Educational Establishment at 20 – 30 Hartley Street, Cairns City. The approved development over the vacant site is another step toward delivering a new inner-city campus for Central Queensland University (CQU). Now, Council and CQU will negotiate final terms of the land transfer to ensure long-term benefits for the whole community. The proposed campus will provide facilities for a range of academic disciplines including nursing, medical imaging, engineering, paramedicine, physiotherapy, digital media and education.



Planning, Growth & Sustainability

EcoFiesta 2026 Inspires Sustainable Action Across Cairns

Over eight thousand residents and visitors attended EcoFiesta 2026 at Munro Martin Parklands, celebrating sustainable living, community action and environmental stewardship through a vibrant program of live entertainment, workshops and interactive activities.

Featuring more than 80 sustainability-focused exhibitors, community groups and market stalls, the event showcased practical solutions for waste reduction, renewable energy, sustainable gardening, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience, further cementing EcoFiesta's reputation as one of Far North Queensland's leading sustainability events.

Key highlights included performances by Spoonbill Ensemble, True Vibration, Formidable Vegetable, Loni Fitzpatrick, Raconteurs and Cloud 9, alongside popular workshops led by Costa Georgiadis on composting and tropical design. Other sessions explored renewable energy, healthy lifestyles and community resilience, while families enjoyed a free screening of Ocean by Sir David Attenborough and a wide range of children's activities.

The event also generated strong community engagement through the EcoFiesta Photo Competition, the Rainforest to Reef Treasure Hunt, and opportunities to connect with environmental organisations, Traditional Owner groups, educators and local businesses.

EcoFiesta 2026 reinforced Council's commitment to sustainability by empowering residents with practical knowledge and inspiration to create healthier homes, stronger communities and a more resilient future for Cairns.



Cairns Infrastructure and Assets

Customer Requests – June 2026



129

Footpaths and
cycleways



40%



234

Roads and road
furniture



9%



85

Graffiti removal



16%

Percentages indicate movement on last month.

Major Projects & Initiatives

June 2026



Resource Recovery 2040 Roadmap

- Kerbside Collection Contract awarded November 2025 – Mobilisation meetings have commenced.
- Residual Contract was awarded – Mobilisation meetings have commenced.
- Marketing & Comms workshopped with-Council new campaign “Know before you throw”

Cairns Water Security Stage 1

- The Bruce Highway onramp reopened to traffic on 30 June 2026 after completion of bulk of the works at the Jones Rd pit.
- Main Electrical Switchboards at the Treated Water Pump Station and Consolidated Building switch rooms have been installed
- Mulgrave intake pipeline and electrical conduits are substantially complete.



Smart Water Meter Project

- 41,000 + smart water meters installed, out of 55,000 scope
- SWM project rollout team installed 211 meters last month
- Potential leaks are being identified by the new smart water meters and customers contacted accordingly

Economic Development & Advocacy Highlights – June

Economic Development

- On 24 June, Council endorsed its new Economic Development Strategy 2026-2030, outlining Council's priorities for supporting economic development across Priority Industries, Strategic Economic Precincts, and Strategic Economic Initiatives.

Major Events & Film

- **2032 Games Roadmap for Cairns** – Torch Advisory Group have submitted the first draft of the Games Roadmap. The project team of Council Officers are reviewing the content and compiling feedback from across the Council and our external stakeholders. In addition, the Budget & Resourcing phase of the project has commenced.
- **Brisbane 2032 Olympics (City Readiness)** – Officers continue to engage with both the Olympic and Paralympic Games Office (OPGO) and the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee of key priorities and actions..
- **Black Snow Season 3** - Filming operations have now wrapped in region. Stay tuned for details on the premier!

Advocacy

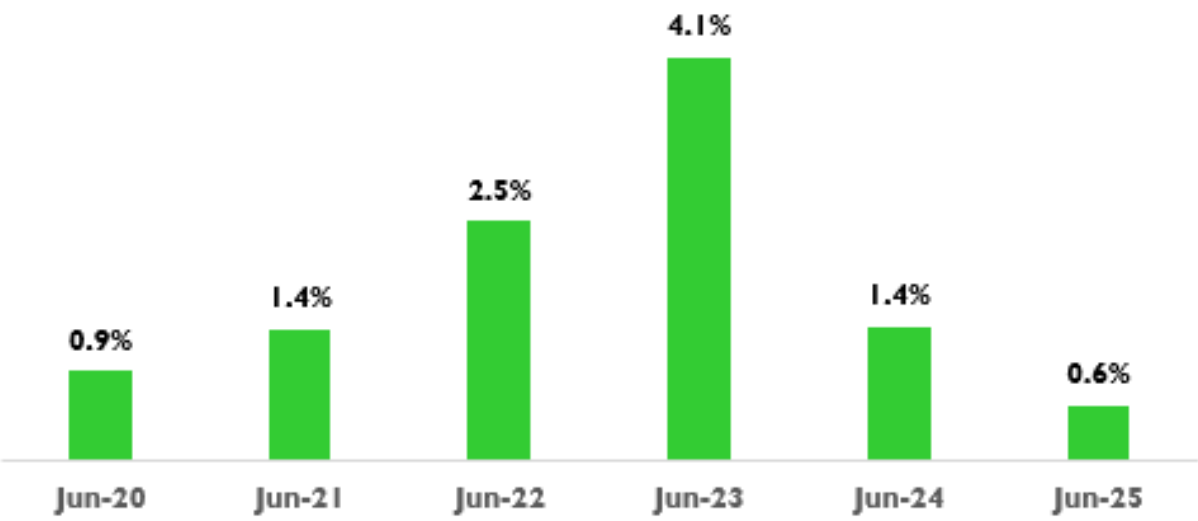
- **State Budget** - The 2026–27 Queensland Budget delivered several key commitments for Cairns and the region, including their infrastructure funding contribution and commitment to the Mount Peter Southern Growth Corridor and continued investment in the Cairns Western Arterial Road, the new Barron River bridge (at Kuranda) and other regionally significant infrastructure priorities.
- **Cairns Airport Link Bus** - Following sustained Council advocacy over many years, the Queensland Government confirmed funding for a new public bus service linking Cairns Airport with the city centre.

Economic snapshot

Jobs and Unemployment

Total Cairns Jobs as of June 2025 = 88,958

Cairns jobs growth (last 5 years)



2-year unemployment rate trend (%)

